

REMARKS

I. Status of Claims

After the above amendments, claims 1-12 are pending. Claims 1 and 7 are independent. Claim 1 has been amended in response to the Examiner's rejection and to better define Applicants' invention. No new matter has been introduced by this amendment as the amended limitations find support in the originally filed application, at least in FIG. 4 and paragraphs 0027 and 0028.

II. Rejection of Claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by US 5,889,638 to Kawabasa et al. (hereinafter "Kawabasa")

The Examiner has again rejected claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Kawabasa. However, because Kawabasa does not disclose, teach or suggest all limitations of the instant claims, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

Regarding previously amended claim 7 and currently amended claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that Kawabasa does not disclose "*a pickup*" and "*a slider*" as instantly claimed. The Examiner has responded to Applicants' previous arguments by indicating that the head carriage of Kawabasa "slides in the radial direction of the disk," implying that it is the head carriage of Kawabasa that anticipates the "*slider*" of the present claims. However, it is respectfully asserted that Kawabasa does not then disclose "*a pickup*" and "*a slider*" as previously recited in claim 7 and as now recited in claim 1.

As seen in FIG. 8, the head carriage of Kawabasa consists of an upper part 10 and a lower part 9. Kawabasa discloses that engaging projection 36, which the Examiner asserts anticipates Applicants' first protrusion, "is provided on the topside of the lead screw *supporting part 9b*" (col. 6, lines 25-27). This is illustrated by Kawabasa in figure 11B wherein projection 36 is shown atop supporting part 9b. Quite separately, Kawabasa discloses that projection 39d, which the Examiner asserts anticipates Applicants' second protrusion, "projects from the bottom of *restraining part 39c*" (col. 7, lines 21-22). This is illustrated in figure 14B wherein projection 39d is shown projecting from restraining part 39C.

As such, even if it is assumed *arguendo* that the head carriage of Kawabasa anticipates a slider comprising a first protrusion and a second protrusion, nowhere does Kawabasa then

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disclose, teach or suggest "a pickup" as instantly claimed. And if the head carriage of Kawabasa is considered to anticipate a pickup, then Kawabasa does not disclose "a slider" as instantly claimed. In short, Kawabasa does not and cannot disclose, teach or suggest *both* a pickup *and* a slider. Therefore, each and every feature of instant claims 1 and 7, as well as claims 2-6 and 8-12 based on their respective dependency, is not taught by the asserted reference. As such, it is respectfully requested that the rejection over Kawabasa be withdrawn and the application passed to allowance.

Entry of the present amendment is respectfully requested as it places the application in better form for appeal. Furthermore, the present amendment has not introduced a new issue requiring further search and/or consideration because "a pickup" was previously recited in claim 7 as originally filed. As such, entry and consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

In view of the above, it is believed that the above-identified application is in condition for allowance, and notice to that effect is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



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